

**Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Water Quality**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES R317-1, R317-2, R317-3, R317-8, and R317-10

The Utah Water Quality Board is considering substantive changes in the Water Quality Standards for the State of Utah and other ancillary administrative rules. A Public Hearing is being held to receive public input prior to developing final draft changes and initiating rulemaking.

Items being considered for addition or change include the following:

Great Salt Lake: We are proposing to adopt a change in the description of the beneficial use of the Great Salt Lake. We recommend that the term aquatic wildlife be replaced with waterfowl, shore birds and other water-oriented wildlife, including their necessary aquatic organisms in their food chain.

E. coli: We are proposing to add E. coli to the standards with the concurrent removal of total and fecal coliform bacteria. This is a long-standing recommendation from EPA. Inasmuch as the methodology for easier measurements of this parameter has recently become available, staff is now recommending moving forward. The criteria of 126 org/100 ml E. coli is considered to be equivalent to that of 200 org/100 ml Fecal Coliforms. The Total Coliform standard is eliminated. A footnote is being added to the rule to indicate that where the criteria are exceeded and there is a reasonable basis for concluding that the E. coli are from natural occurring sources (birds, etc.), the standard may be considered attained, i.e., not violated. Other rule references to Total/Fecal Coliform bacteria and their associated numeric values are being changed to E. coli with their appropriate numeric values. See: R317-1-1; R317-1-3; R317-1-4; R317-3-10; R317-8-3; and, R317-10-6 .

Total Dissolved Solids Site Specific Standards: We are proposing to develop site specific TDS standards where it can be shown that a high TDS value is naturally occurring. There are 21 river segments that will receive a site specific standard.

Other Corrections: There are a variety of what staff considers minor changes, including corrections in changes in the metals and ammonia calculation formulas, redefining captions on various tables, adding a secondary recreational beneficial use classification to all National Wildlife Refuges and State Waterfowl Management Areas, and several typographical errors from previous rule changes.

Additional information, including the actual rule changes and a Power Point presentation can be seen by going to the Division website: www.waterquality.utah.gov.

Representatives of political subdivision, governmental agencies, planning or civic groups, special interest groups, and all other persons having an interest in the proposed rule are invited to provide comments to the Division of Water Quality.

All public comments must be received at the offices of the Division of Water Quality no later than March 11, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Hearings will be held as follows:

March 2, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. – Cedar City, Utah

Location: City Library
303 North 100 East
Contact: William O. Moellmer, (801) 538-6329

March 4, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. – Salt Lake City, Utah

Location: Utah Division of Water Quality
288 North 1640 West, Room 125 – Cannon Health Building
Contact: William O. Moellmer, (801) 538-6329

You may also respond through the following means:

1. **Write** or telephone to: William O. Moellmer, Ph.D., Utah Division of Water Quality, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870. Telephone: (801) 538-6329
2. **Email** to: wmoellmer@utah.gov
3. **FAX** to William O. Moellmer, Ph.D. FAX Number: (801) 538-6016